

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

IN AND FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY

***RETIREMENT CEREMONY HONORING THE  
HON. RICHARD S. GEBELEIN, J.***

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BEFORE: CHIEF JUSTICE MYRON T. STEELE  
PRESIDENT JUDGE JAMES T. VAUGHN JR.,

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JOHN P. DONNELLY, RPR  
SUPERIOR COURT REPORTERS  
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AUGUST 10, 2005  
Courtroom 8B  
4:00 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT:

HON. PEGGY L. ABLEMAN, J.  
HON. WILLIAM C. CARPENTER JR., J.  
HON. CARL GOLDSTEIN, J.  
HON. SUSAN C. DELPESCO, J.  
HON. JEROME O. HERLIHY, J.  
HON. FRED S. SILVERMAN, J.  
HON. CHARLES H. TOLIVER IV., J.  
HON. JOSEPH R. SLIGHTS III, J.  
HON. CALVIN L. SCOTT, J.  
JUSTICE HENRY DUPONT RIDGELY  
HON. WILLIAM J. WITHAM, J.  
HON. E. SCOTT BRADLEY, J.  
HON. RICHARD F. STOKES, J.  
HON. ROBERT YOUNG, J.

REMARKS

CHIEF JUSTICE MYRON T. STEELE  
PRESIDENT JUDGE JAMES T. VAUGHN JR.  
HON. VINCENT J. BIFFERATO, J.  
JOSEPH R. BIDEN III, ESQUIRE  
THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER  
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL N. CASTLE  
JOSEPH SCHOELL, ESQUIRE  
THE HONORABLE M. JANE BRADY

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone who joins us here today for this ceremony honoring the retirement of Judge Richard S. Gebelein. I would like to begin by recognizing the members of Judge Gebelein's family who are present; they are his wife Jerri, and his son Zachary. I would also like to recognize the members of the Delaware General Assembly and other elected officials who are present, the Chief Justice, other members of the Supreme Court, retired and current members of the Superior Court, and other members of the judiciary who are present, members of the Bar, members of the Superior Court staff who are present and Judge Gebelein's many friends, including those who will speak to us shortly.

I would also like to recognize former Governor Dale Wolf who I understand is present today, also Commissioner Stan Taylor of the Department of Corrections. Our speakers today will tell us about Judge Gebelein and the distinguished service which he has performed, not only for the people of the State of Delaware, but for our country, as well.

I would like to recognize, briefly, three of his many accomplishments as a judge of the Superior Court. For over ten years, Judge Gebelein served as Criminal Division Chief and then Criminal Administrative Judge for the Court of New Castle County, which is one of the Court's most demanding jobs. For 14 years he served as Chairman of the Sentencing Accountability Commission. During that time he was instrumental in the development of Delaware's Truth in Sentencing legislation. In 1993, he designed and implemented the drug court in Delaware, which has served as a model to be studied and adopted by other

jurisdictions.

On behalf of your colleagues, Judge Gebelein, I would like to express the Court's gratitude for the invaluable service you have performed over these last 21 years. I would like to now invite the Honorable Myron T. Steele, Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court of Delaware.

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE: Thank you very much, President Judge Vaughn. I appreciate the opportunity to address Rich primarily, Judge Gebelein, as well as members of his family, members of our Bar and colleagues of the Bench. I looked at the agenda, I thought with college football season 24 days, 7 hours, 18 minutes away it would be fair for me to penalize Franny Haney for piling on. 15 yards, Franny.

As a result, it is necessary for me to be a person of few words. That reminds me of the story that I like the best about Calvin Coolidge. You may recall the story where the beautacious young lady sat next to the President at dinner, batted her eyes at him and said -- he was notorious for being a man of few words -- she said, I bet my friends, Mr. Coolidge, that I can get you to say three words at dinner tonight. His response without thinking, You lose. I will keep Calvin Coolidge in mind for the balance of my remarks.

Rich, you have gained a reputation with your

colleagues, and all who have known you, most of the people in this room have known you for 20 years or more, some for 30 years or more, as a caring father, and a loving husband. For those of us like the President Judge who are prior service and veterans, I think of you also as a good soldier. The term good soldier is not just a passing phrase for those of us who served; it means someone who cares about doing things the right way, cares about the people who work around him, cares about the people that serve with him, those of the same or lesser rank, and watches your back and takes care of colleagues and all fellow workers. We lose a good soldier.

Your former adversaries, and there are more than a few, given your rich tradition as a Delaware lawyer, thought of you and still think of you as a tough adversary; tough as an adversary in politics; tough as an adversary in the courtroom; sometimes an unforgiving adversary, but never, ever an ungracious adversary.

Among your colleagues you are admired and respected. I personally can't think of two better terms for any colleague to be remembered by his friends and fellow workers. I have often noted over the years how incredible your abilities were to balance all that you undertook. It is enough to be a Superior Court Judge, in anyone's lifetime; for a day, a month or even a

year. The responsibility and the work load is significant, but it was never enough for Rich. The President Judge mentioned briefly SENTAC, but Rich was balancing his work as a Superior Court Judge, his career in the Delaware Army National Guard, and his responsibilities for SENTAC well beyond the ordinary work load of any individual.

You [don't|done] get accomplished what Rich has accomplished, including becoming a Full Bull, as a Colonel is called in the Army, in the extraordinary case without being full of bull in the process, without extraordinary devotion and exceptional talent.

The SENTAC work Rich did alone is a monument to his career. Most everyone in this room knows generally what SENTAC is about, but when you focus on the mission of SENTAC, you will recall that when Governor duPont set up the Sentencing Reform Commission, it was then succeeded by the Sentencing Accountability Commission. Rich, for more than ten years, was the head of that organization, an incredible task. It is a group made up of people with diverse perspectives in criminal law, but with a common goal in mind to make sure that you incarcerate those who need to be incarcerated, and you find alternative, but suitable punishment or supervision for those that do not need to be incarcerated.

Rich was able to negotiate for over ten years, [true|through] a virtual mind field of differences of opinion, to reach a goal that balanced appropriate incarceration, innovative supervision with fiscal responsibility. Organizations made up of the police, Attorney General's office, the Public Defender's office, members of the judiciary, public members, he kept it all in balance, and it amounted to an additional job to being a Superior Court Judge.

When the time came to expand the appropriate supervision, Rich was in the forefront with the Drug Court Initiative. While other States started one, Rich was primarily responsible for both the initiation of and success of the drug court in Delaware.

No challenge that Rich has he ever undertaken was accomplished with less or more enthusiasm than what Rich brings to bare. The perfect balanced individual; even temperament, good judgement, sound discretion. When I think about the fact that Rich is going to be leaving our judicial community, I am disappointed, but I am excited. Again, Rich looks at a challenge; as his career for more than 20 years as a judge in Delaware has enhanced the reputation of our judiciary, each of us as an individual, the judiciary as an institution, and the State of Delaware as a result, he accepts another challenge

that, again, enhances our reputation. A year in Afghanistan as a citizen soldier, and now duty in Bosnia as a war crimes and organized crime judge.

You are going to a distant land to face a new challenge, but just as the old soldier who predicted that, incorrectly, that he would fade away upon leaving his career, Rich, you will not fade away from your colleagues, and the people you served in Delaware; not from our minds, because of your intellectual ability, not from our memories, because of your collegial spirit, innovation, spirit and energy; and not from our hearts for your friendship and devotion to Delaware. God's speed, best wishes, bonne chance.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE: The Court would now like to recognize the Honorable Vincent J. Bifferato, retired judge of the Superior Court of Delaware.

HON. VINCENT J. BIFFERATO: Mr. Chief Justice, Mr. President Judge, Judge Gebelein, Senator Carper, Congressman Castle, other distinguished guests. My wife pulled up on the Internet the other day an order. It was from the office of the High Representative in Sarajevo appointing Richard Gebelein as a judge. It was by Paddy Ashdown. I am not going to go into anything else about that order. I think that is primarily why



he may be moving on with his career.

I have known Richard Gebelein for a long time. I first met him shortly after he graduated from law school because he clerked for Justice Duffy when Bill Duffy was a Chancellor. In those days we only had a few law clerks. We had the pleasure of exchanging them so they would get a broader view of the judicial system in the state. Richard was assigned to me for a very short period of time. I remember the case you worked on, it was a pornography case; of course, Richard being as thorough as he always is, insisted on reviewing all the evidence.

He was very fortunate starting with Bill Duffy. We all remember Bill as one of Delaware's leading legal scholars; also, one of Delaware's true gentlemen. I believe this early mentoring is something Rich has relied upon throughout his legal career. He is soft spoken, but determined. He is a man who has sought and achieved success in many areas, varying areas of the law, especially criminal law. I remember Rich as a politician who successfully ran for Attorney General; after acting as Chief Prosecutor and a small short stint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel he became a Superior Court judge and he renewed his interest and expanded his approach to criminal law as a jurist.

He worked revising rules of criminal procedure with a

well balanced approach to the needs for due justice, due process. While performing as an active trial judge, Richard sought new avenues to meet the changing needs of the criminal justice system. As Chief Justice Steele alluded to, the sentencing reform, of course the drug court. During the years of his legal career, Richard continued in a parallel career, the military. I hear he is a Colonel. To me he never looked like a Colonel.

His career as a JAG officer continued during his judicial career. It seems there was a wanderlust in his actions, as well. He traveled extensively to promote the work he was doing with the drug courts and sentencing reform. While we all knew Richard liked to travel, his ventures into improving, even devising legal procedures in Bosnia and later Afghanistan reflect Richard's belief that one person can make a difference.

During all of the years that I have known Richard, he has been a compensative man who always maintained the appropriate demeanor and serious approach to his evolving professional duties as a prosecutor, as a judge, as a military officer.

He is also more than a professional. He has a family. He is a family man, as well. With his wife Jerri at his side,

Richard has been able to pursue his professional goals. He's always been the father of three children, and catered to them. Some people may review today's ceremony as marking a slowing down, an ending of a career for Richard Gebelein, but I know that it is not. This is a new beginning, because Richard is a man who believes he can accomplish things. His complex view of action in his daily life reminds me of a short poem:

If you think you are beaten, you are. If you think you dare not, you don't. If you like to win, but think that you can't, it is almost a cinch that you won't. If you think you lose, you are lost; for out in the world we find success begins with a fellow's will. It is all in the state of mind. If you think you are outclassed, you are. You've got to think high to rise. You've got to be sure of yourself before you can ever win a prize. Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or fastest man; but soon or late, the man who wins, is the man who thinks he can.

I am pretty sure Richard probably did not read this poem, but I believe it reflects his approach to life. Richard goes believing he can make a difference. We all know that he will try.

Although Richard is retiring from the Superior Court Bench, has retired from the military, he is simply not the

retiring type. Richard and I have been friends for a long time. We used to walk three miles every morning. I remember one morning it was icy, he slipped on the ice and hit his head. I looked down at Richard and said, how the devil am I going to walk three miles dragging Richard.

We still meet occasionally, socially. Your life on Superior Court has been very rewarding for you and very rewarding for the State of Delaware and your family. I think I say for everybody in this courtroom; Richard, we wish you much success, and we are truly going to [Ms.|miss] you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE: The Court recognizes Joseph R. Biden, III, Esquire, representing the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, United States Senator from Delaware.

MR. BIDEN: Chief Justice Steele, President Judge Vaughn, Judge Gebelein, Mrs. Gebelein, distinguished members of the Delaware Courts, Senator Carper, Judge Bifferato, Congressman Castle, General Brady, my name is Bo Biden. I am here on behalf of my father who cannot be here today. He wanted me to read a letter to you and your family.

Dear Judge Gebelein: I am sorry that I could not be there with you and Jerri today to honor you as you end one chapter of your remarkable career and begin another as an

International Judge in Bosnia. In a public service career marked with great milestones, your recent appointment as an International Judge is yet another extraordinary achievement. From your time as Delaware's Attorney General, to your distinguished tenure on the Superior Court Bench, to nearly two decades of service with Delaware National Guard, each chapter has been exceptional.

The drug courts you pioneered will forever serve as your legacy. With your innovative and nationally recognized emphasis on rehabilitative solutions for drug court defendants that led me to ask you to come to Washington and lead the National Court System -- Drug Court System. However, you chose to answer different call, and volunteered for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Your tenure -- your tour serving as a Colonel in war torn Afghanistan gave you the opportunity to apply first-hand what you have always known was essential, Judge, the rule of law. In Afghanistan, you did what few men or women have ever [don't|done]. You risked your life for the values you hold.

When I consider your career, I am reminded of the words the writer Louis Demick who wrote, "There is a certain blend of courage, integrity, character and principle which no satisfactory dictionary name" -- "which has no satisfactory

dictionary name, but has been called different things at different times in different countries. Our American name for it is guts."

Judge, you left the comfort of home and family to put yourself in harm's way to help build what you knew was an integral part of any budding Democracy; the rule of law; the rule of law that has guided you your entire adult life. The nation is fortunate to have men and women like you willing to put their lives on the line for the best interest of America.

Now, in typical Gebelein fashion, you are voluntarily walking away from a prestigious judgeship and comfortable environment to serve your country once more. We, the people of Delaware, owe you a debt of gratitude.

Forgive a point of personal privilege, I am proud of you, Richard, proud to consider you a friend. I have no doubt when you finish your tenure as International Judge, the people of Bosnia will have a much fuller appreciation of the uniqueness of America. One more thing, Richard, I also have no doubt that this will not be the last chapter of your service to your State and to your Country.

Jerri, I would be remiss if I did not recognize, once again, your personal commitment and patriotism. We owe you a debt of gratitude, as well.

Sincerely, Joe Biden.

If I may, Your Honor, with all due respect, Judge Bifferato, you very much look like a Colonel to me. I think I might speak on behalf of some of my colleagues here who served you in the JAG unit. You make us proud. You are a great role model. Thank you, Your Honor.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. Biden. The Court would now like to recognize the Honorable Thomas R. Carper, United States Senator from Delaware.

HON. THOMAS R. CARPER: President Judge Vaughn, Chief Justice Steele, Judge Gebelein, Jerri, Zach and any others in this room that might be part of your family; to my fellow elected officials, to those who serve on the Bench as our judges and across the State, and ladies and gentlemen. Several people have mentioned, they raise this issue of your rank. I was just thinking before you -- long before you were a Colonel, you were a General. Whenever I see an Attorney General of this State or Country I call them General. It is a pleasure to call you General, it is a pleasure to call you Colonel, and Judge, as well.

I had the privilege of nominating Judge Gebelein for a second term to the Superior Court. It was 1996. Something Biff

said sort of brings everything else into focus. The day that he came for the interview his head was bandaged, and I remember just saying, What happened to you? He said, Judge Bifferato and I have been training for the Caesar Rodney Half Marathon. We were out running on this cold winter morning, hit an icy spot and he went down. I tried to save him, and hit my head as a result. I said, How did the other guy look? He said, Not much better. Whether it was running half marathons or walking three miles, or any other things that you have [don't|done], I want to really echo the sentiments we have already heard, and hear from others here who follow me.

I do remember the day that I was privileged to interview Rich. I have had the pleasure of interviewing a lot of folks sitting [herein|here in] judicial garb today, and those who are not. We are blessed in this State with a wonderful, wonderful judiciary. Delaware is a model in many ways. We are a model with respect to how we get people off of welfare. We are a model, I think, with respect to the way we educate kids in our schools, prepare them for kindergarten in this State, make sure they go on to make sure they become successful. We are a model in the way we select our judges. God knows I wish we could take this model to Washington, to use this model for the selection of a judge, whether it's the US Supreme Court or any



of the others because we do it right in the State of Delaware. We end up with just wonderful people who serve, a bunch of them are in this room today.

I said to Judge Gebelein the day that we met, I said a number of qualities that I look for in someone that I nominate, whose name I submit to the State Senate. I indicated that I look for people who know the law, people who are knowledgeable with respect to the law. I look for people who are objective, who listen to both sides of an argument as folks come into their courtroom and go in with an open mind and be willing to be a good listener. I look for people who are able, not only able to make a decision in a timely way, but will make a decision, more often than not make the right decision. I look for someone who has good judicial temperament and sort of follows the golden rule with respect to the way they treat people in their courtroom. I said I look for people who just work hard. I never want to nominate someone to the Bench who gets on the Bench, and frankly, they just don't, in an esteemed job, they [don't|done] give it 100 percent.

I said, as a result, I will have to look for someone else to fill your seat. I was kidding. He knew it. He meets all those criteria, every one of those. It was an honor for me to be able to submit his name to the Senate and I think we

squeaked through on an 11 to 10 vote. It was a unanimous vote. I think his first one was, too.

I mentioned earlier that Delaware is a model for the nation; some of the ways I think we are a model for the nation. Judge Gebelein, also, in his drug court idea which served -- I think maybe the President Judge mentioned this -- it is a model for the nation. It is one that has not only worked well for us here in Delaware but other nations, other States, rather, have come in and stolen this idea and put it to good use in their own lives.

Last Friday many of us gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church to say goodbye to a good friend, Karen Johnson, who served as Secretary of Public Safety in my administration. I talked about her understanding that her job was not to simply make sure the bad guys were arrested, locked up, and put in jail. A lot of times that needs to happen, but a big part of her job was to make sure we went after and fought the root causes as to why people wind up going to jail. Whether it was Rich as our Attorney General, or as the Superior Court judge, someone who is innovative for the drug court, or served in Afghanistan, he has always sought to go after the root cause of a problem, and to address that problem, and not simply address the symptoms but to go after the root cause. I think

it's that I respect and admire you the most.

In an age where a lot of us people, I think we are about the same age, a lot of people are thinking about slowing down, doing something else, you are still picking up speed, ready to head off to the next assignment.

I just want to say to Jerri, Zach, and I guess your son and daughter who are not here today, that we appreciate your sharing with us a good man, and for this State, and as it turns out, really, for the country. A couple of us served in the military. I know our Chief Justice has for a number of years, obviously Rich has, as well; so have I. I am an old Navy guy. They are Army guys. We have a saying in the Navy on occasions like this when someone is ready to sail off into the sun rise as you are, and that is the saying is fair winds and a following sea, my friend. God bless you.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE: The Court now recognizes the Honorable Michael N. Castle, United States Representative for Delaware.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE: Thank you very much, Chief Justice, and President Judge Vaughn, Judge Gebelein, to the other judges here. This would be a heck of a jury, is all I can say, to our other elected officials who are here joining us, all

guests who are here, and, obviously, particularly, to Jerri and Zachary, and the whole Gebelein family. I am pleased to be here. I am here more of a friend, and acquaintance than I am in any real capacity of recognizing what Rich has [don't|done]. I went back and did a little work on this, and like a lot of other things I discovered is he never really could hold a job in his life, as far as I could ascertain. He has been literally everything.

Tom Carper and I get a little confused. Our names are somewhat alike. We have held the same jobs. People call me Tom, call me Governor, Senator, call him all kinds of things, to me. We go back and forth. Rich is sort of like a one man you [don't|done] know who he is or what he is doing at this time show.

He has basically done everything you can do in this State, as far as can I ascertain. He has been a Deputy Attorney General, as well as Attorney General for the State of Delaware. Think of the titles he has had; General, for example. He has been the Chief Deputy Public Defender, Public Defender is another title. Obviously he has been a judge, been in the National Guard. I suppose he has been probably Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Colonel depending on what time you knew him you had a different title for him. He's been chairman of the

Delaware Sentencing Accountability Commission, SENTAC; if you knew him in that capacity you probably called him Chairman. He has been a professor at Widener, you knew him as Professor there. He has probably in Afghanistan and Bosnia been an American. People referred to him in that capacity, as the great American. He has literally done everything, [don't|done] enough so you think he is 100 years old. He looks a heck of a lot younger than I am and he is retiring, and I am not planning on retiring anytime soon.

I will tell you that Rich and Jerri are two good people. They are individuals who I have had some political involvement with and Rich was no different as a candidate, or as Attorney General then he is now as a judge. He was always fair. He has always approached people in a very straightforward way. He has tremendous support from Jerri and a whole variety of capacities throughout his life. That has given him the ability and the freedom, frankly, to represent our country, and all of our states outside the United States through the work that he has [don't|done] overseas. I would guess as much as anybody in the State of Delaware, perhaps with the exception of your father, Bo, with the exception of that, he is probably known outside of the State in terms of what has he [don't|done] and for that, it is a blessing for each and every one of us.

I would just like to thank you, Rich. I did not coin this expression, but you are truly "a judge for all seasons." You have done so very, very much over all these years, and the span of your career that you are probably going to be able to look back and have more memories and enjoyable moments of recognition, of great value you brought to the various jobs that you held in terms of helping other people as anybody possibly could. For that I thank you. I congratulate you. May God bless you and your family.

(Applause.)

CHIEF JUSTICE STEELE: The Court now recognizes Joseph Schoell, Esquire, representing Governor Ruth Ann Minner.

MR. SCHOELL: Good afternoon, Chief Justice Steele, Chief Judge Vaughn, Judge Gebelein, members of Your Honor's family, other distinguished guests. Governor Minner very much regrets she was not able to be here today. She had a number of commitments in the southern part of our State, but I am fortunate that gives me the honor, and the privilege to be here on her behalf to present a tribute on behalf of Governor Minner and Lt. Governor John Carney, Junior.

Be it hereby known to all that Ruth Ann Minner, Governor of the State of Delaware, and John C. Carney, Junior, Lt. Governor, extend sincere congratulations to the Honorable

Richard S. Gebelein for his prestigious appointment to be the State Court of Bosnia Herzegovina Special Chambers for War Crimes and Organized Crime. Governor Minner and Lt. Governor Carney congratulate Judge Gebelein for his appointment through the United States Department of State. Delawareans have been fortunate to have such a brilliant talent working within our legal and judicial system and this legacy will surely include his dedication in sentencing reform, sentencing accountability, and the implementation of many vital correction and treatment programs.

Judge Gebelein has offered several integral pieces of legislation in Delaware, including the Truth in Sentencing Act, and his presence and wisdom will surely be missed by all his colleagues, friends, and associates across the First State. Best of luck in your future endeavors. Signed Ruth Ann Minner, Governor and John C. Carney, Junior, Lt. Governor on this 10th day of August 2005.

Your Honor, as I am -- as you know I worked with you myself, and it is truly a privilege. You have made us all very, very proud in this State. We wish you the very best of luck. Good luck to you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: The Court now recognizes the

Honorable M. Jane Brady, Attorney General for the State of Delaware.

HON. M. JANE BRADY: Good afternoon, Chief Justice, Judge Vaughn, Judge Gebelein, members of the judiciary, other distinguished guests and all of your friends and relatives that are in the room. I am pleased and honored be here as a representative of a small part of the Delaware Bar, that is the family of the Department of Justice. Rich, a lot of people have spoken about the time that they worked with you. I worked for you as a Deputy Attorney General, and on behalf of all of those who served with you in the Department, congratulations, God's speed.

I have to tell you that as we spoke within the Department about the change that you are making in your choice of public service. The constant discussion, subject of discussion was the fact that you have always chosen public service, that you have many talents, many capabilities and you have chosen to give them in a way that did not find the greatest financial remuneration. It did not give you the greatest amount of time away from the office. You relishly accepted the responsibility of that public service with dignity and enthusiasm.

We also discussed the fact that there have been times



when you have been on the bench that although you used to be the boss in the Attorney General's Office, you still were telling us what to do, and with your judicial authority, of course, you have the full privilege to do that. Some of those in my office accepted the decisions better than others, but we all respected them.

You always had a global perspective of the justice system and brought innovation and change in a way that wasn't just tinkering with the way that we did things, but was changing perspectives, changing approaches, and changing the success, frankly, of the way that the justice system worked. We respect and honor that today, as well. You were a thought leader and the bench will [Ms.|miss] your presence because of that.

We also think that it is important to recognize that in the times since you have been on the Bench, that you have shown great regard and respect for work that the prosecutors in my office do. We work very hard. In fact, I was joking with someone; I remember the day you were sworn in as Attorney General, quite vividly. I had to leave your reception twice. I had three juries out and had to take two verdicts. The third one came in the next day. So when everyone complains about -- I wouldn't remember that except it was the day you were sworn in -- everyone complains about how busy they are, I can tell

them that story of how busy we were then. You have always been respectful of the demands because you know the demands that people in our office face.

Finally, on a personal note, having worked for you, and with you, I have the highest regard for you. Thank you for the good counsel that have you given me in the time that I have served as Attorney General, for the respect and honor that you have shown to the office that we both love dearly. I hope, in some small part, that the way that I have approached the job of Attorney General, trying to take on issues globally, to respect the competence and capability of the people that work for and with me has been a reflection of the model that you presented. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Richard, the Judges of the Superior Court would like to present you with a gift, which I hope you will find to be a suitable memento or symbol of your time on the Court. It is given with great appreciation for your service on the Court. I do want you to open it now. I think it might be easier if we stood up. It is a gavel. The box is inscribed "To Richard S. Gebelein, Judge, Superior Court of Delaware 1984 to 2005 from the Judges of the Superior Court" and the gavel is inscribed with your name and years of service.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: At this time it is my pleasure to recognize the Honorable Richard S. Gebelein.

HON. RICHARD S. GEBELEIN: Mr. Chief Justice, President Judge Vaughn, Senator Carper, Representative Castle, Attorney General Brady. What I should say is Tom, Mike, Jane, Myron, Jim. That is one of the beauties of Delaware. It has been a great honor and privilege to be able to serve the people of Delaware for over 20 years as a Superior Court judge.

I want to thank Governor duPont for initially appointing me, then Governor Carper, now Senator Carper for re-appointing me, and for the Delaware General Assembly for confirming me. The first time wasn't so unanimous, but it did work out, and for allowing me that privilege.

Mike, I think you usually get blamed for me because it was, like, in Governor duPont's last year. Whenever ever I do something bad, they blame Mike. I initially brought a speech that I was going to read, but after listening to the Chief Justice about football season, I think I better can that.

I do want to say a few things, though. I want to recognize the inspiration that I have had as a judge. 35 years ago I had the opportunity to come here and clerk in the Court of Chancery, as Judge Bifferato mentioned. In fact, in those days

we did not have clerks for every judge. So I clerked for Chancellor Duffy and Vice Chancellor Marvel and Vice Chancellor Short when he was in Wilmington. I was able to spend a month in Superior Court because we used to let the clerks exchange to get a little feel in the different courts. And there I worked for Judges Quillen and Bifferato. They were all very different judges, but all of them shared one belief, that belief was that this position was to serve the people, to give each litigant respect, to give each lawyer respect, and to reach a fair result in each case; and I have always felt if I could approach that standard, that I would have been a good judge.

On a little personal note, as a young Deputy Attorney General under Laird Stabler, I was asked to fill in for our deputy in Dover while he was away on military duty. Then Deputy Attorney General Steele, I found, was responsible for covering three courts, being responsible for indicting all of the cases, giving advice to all the police agencies, and many other responsibilities in that office. After a week of attempting to fill his shoes, I realized what an extraordinary person he is. He became a model of what a good lawyer could accomplish under adverse conditions by working collaboratively with the courts. I hope I never forgot that lesson.

In 1984, I joined the Bench in Superior Court. I was

in awe then of joining a Bench with people that I admired and respected; Judge Bifferato, then Judge Walsh, and a little bit later Judge Quillen. I was also in awe of the responsibility of that office and I still am. Taking away someone's freedom should never be routine. As privileged at that time to serve, again, with Judge Bifferato and Judge Quillen, this time as a colleague. Actually Judge Bifferato became my closest friend on the Court and yes, Biff, they did refer to us as the "Odd Couple."

I was blessed during my judicial career to have President Judges who allowed me a lot of freedom to try different approaches; for example, it's been mentioned the drug courts. In the early 1990s, President Judge Ridgely let Judge Goldstein and myself experiment with the drug court. It became one of the first in the nation and one of the most successful. My colleagues in Superior Court have supported that program. It's expanded to all three counties. Judge Vaughn runs it in Kent County. I thank all of my colleagues for that.

I have been, again, extremely blessed to have secretaries, I use the old fashion expression secretary. I know there is some new term, but at my age it is hard to learn these things, because they are the people who made me look good. Pattie Wheeler, Patti Olesky, Debbie Wilson, Karin DuVall. All

of these people had to juggle a million things and keep me on track so that I knew what I was doing. I really appreciate that.

My family, also, has supported me. During my career I made a lot of choices, and believe it or not, through the years Judges and Attorneys General and Deputy Attorneys General really haven't always been paid very well. Right now I can't complain, but back in the days when some of these decisions were made it was a financial hardship; and they have been there to support me. Last year they were there to support me when I went away for a little while. I appreciate that.

The Bar in Delaware has been a pleasure to work with. Rightly, it has always received national recognition for its professionalism, its civility and integrity. I have been in places where that is not the norm and I can assure you it is much better here, better for the citizens, it's better for the litigants, certainly better for the Court.

Finally, I want to thank the staff, the staff of Superior Court, every single one of you. Every time you have said, Judge Gebelein, there is another VOP sentence; or, Judge Gebelein, the number on this charge is wrong, that has prevented me from making mistakes. I really, sincerely appreciate it. I appreciate the court reporters who make me sound almost coherent

when they prepare the transcripts. I thank the bailiffs who maintain the order and protect the order in the court. I cannot ever in my mind forget watching a lady charge across the courtroom, hook the bailiff and carry Evette halfway across the courtroom when she was trying to attack a defendant. These people are all not well paid. They are not in this business here because they get well paid.

They all have important jobs to do, and I have to say they do them well. So, again, I want to say thank you to you. You do the work day in and day out. We are the people up here in the funny dresses that get all the credit for it.

As to the future, I am looking forward to the new assignment with the Bosnia Herzegovina Special Chambers. I met some of these judges a few years ago when I was doing some training. In that country they have adopted an adversary system, and we went over, some of the us went over and were doing training with Bosnian judges. So they knew what that meant to have adversaries in the courtroom. It was probably as a result of some of that work that I was invited to join this Court. I look forward to doing it.

I want to just basically say that the thing that I am going to [Ms.|miss] most is the people in Superior Court; the staff, the judges, lawyers, and the interaction that has always

come easy. I mentioned in Delaware you can say Tom and Mike and get away with it sometimes, but the fact is that in this State one person can make a big difference, all they have to be is a little bit persistent at it.

I want to thank you all for coming. This is August, I would have expected you not to be here and Governor Wolf, I did not mean to forget you. I worked with you. I appreciate the help that you have been over the years, too. So thank you. And Senator McBride is here. I want to say thank you for getting the pension bill [true|through] so I can retire, and all the members of the General Assembly that did that. I know that was a little bit controversial, but if that had not happened, I would not have been able to take this assignment. So thank you very much, I appreciate it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JUDGE VAUGHN: Ladies and gentlemen, that does conclude the ceremony. You are all welcome to greet Judge Gebelein at a reception which, I believe, is right out in the hallway. So this ceremony is adjourned.

(Whereupon the ceremony was concluded.)